

Message Text

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17

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SUBJECT: TRIAL OF OEI TJOE TAT OPENS

BEGIN SUMMARY: TRIAL OF FORMER MINISTER OF STATE IN
SUKARNO GOVERNMENT OEI TJOE TAT ON CHARGES OF INVOLVE-
MENT IN 1965 COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT OPENED FEB. WITH
FULL PUBLICITY AND WIDE PRESS COVERAGE. DEFENDANT
CHARGED WITH DAMAGING LEGAL STATE AUTHORITY, WHICH
CAUSED DEFENSE COUNSEL TO OBJECT THAT CHARGE UNCLEAR AND
NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY BASED ON LAW BUT ONLY IN PRESIDENT-
IAL DECREE. COURT WILL REPLY
FEB. 10 END SUMMARY.

1. OEI TJOE TAT, FORMER MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
SUKARNO GOVERNMENT, WENT ON TRIAL FEB. 9 IN CENTRAL
JAKARTA STATE COURT CHARGE WITH CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE
AUHTORITY OF THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT IN THAT HE ENCOURAGED
PRO-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS PRIOR TO THE 1965 PKI COUP
ATTEMPT AND LATER OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED COUP ATTEMPT AS
AN INTERNAL ARMY AFFAIR. PROSECUTOR'S CHARGES COVERED
ALLEGED RECEPTION OF MASS DEMONSTRATORS IN FEB. AND
MARCH 1965 AT OEI TJOE TAT'S PARTINDO (A PKI AFFILATE)

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OFFICE, AND HIS ENCOURAGEMENT OF THEIR PLANS TO SEIZE

JAKARTA USIS OFFICE. OEI TJOE TAT WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF ENCOURAGING PRO-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATORS IN SPEECH MADE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE SEPT. 30 COUP ATTEMPT. INDICTMENT SAID THESE ACTIVITIES HAD HARMED GOVERNMENTAL INTEGRITY AND CONTRIBUTED TO DISORDER IN SOCIETY. ON OCT 4, 1965, FOUR DAYS AFTER COUP ATTEMPT, OEI TJOE TAT AND PARTINDO EXECUTIVE BOARD COLLEAGUES ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING THAT COUP ATTEMPT WAS INTERNAL ARMY AFFAIR AND A POLITICAL MATTER.

2. OEI TJOE TAT'S DEFENSE COUNSELS, DJAMALUDDIN SINGOMANGKUTO SH, YAP THIAM HIEN SH, AND ALBERT HASIBUAN SH, RAISED OBJECTION TO PROSECUTION CHARGES, STATING THAT CHARGE OF DAMAGING GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY BASED ON LAW BUT ONLY IN PRESIDENTIAL DECREE. THEY MAINTAINED ALSO THAT SPECIFICATIONS OF OEI TJOE TAT'S GUILT WERE VAGUE AND UNCLEAR, AND THEY REFUSED TO ACCEPT INDICTMENT AS STATED. DEFENSE COUNSEL YAP THIAM HIEN COMPLAINED THAT DETENTION OF ACCUSED WITHOUT LEGAL BASIS FOR LAST TEN YEARS WAS VIOLATION OF BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. DEFENSE COUNSELS ALSO ASKED PERMISSION TO CALL AS WITNESSES FORMER ADAM AMLIK AND FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS DR. SOEBANDRIO AND DR. Y. LEIMENA, AMONG OTHERS. COURT IS DUE TO REPLY FEB. 10.

3. PRESS COVERAGE IF TRIAL HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD, WITH ALMOST ALL DAILIES FRONT-PAGING OPENING DAY EVENTS IN FEB 10 ISSUES INCLUDING MANY PICTURES. LOCAL PAPERS ALSO CARRIED SEVERAL ARTICLES ON CASE IN DAYS PRECEDING TRIAL OPENING. TRIAL SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC AND PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE AND ARE BEING TAKEN IN COURT.

4. COMMENT: OEI TJOE TAT WAS CLOSE CONFIDANT OF SUKARNO AND SERVED AS HIS LIAISON MAN WITH INDONESIAN CHINESE COMMUNITY. HE IS BEING CHARGED UNDER SAME LAW AS HARIMAN SIREGAR, WHOSE APPEAL IS STILL PENDING ON CONVICTION FOR INVOLVEMENT IN JANUARY 1974 RIOTS. TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE CONTINUOUS PUBLICITY, AND MAY BE USED BY GOI AS CONFIRMATION OF INVOLVEMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHINESE, BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, IN 1965 COUP ATTEMPT.
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